

## Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-13 RSR-01 /143 W

----- 029685

R 080951 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3248

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, LT, SF

SUBJ: BCP LEADER ON RELATIONS BETWEEN LESOTHO AND SOUTH AFRICA

REF : MASERU 505

ON JUNE 6 SABC QUOTED BCP LEADER MOKHEHLE AS SAYING LESOTHO COULD NEVER ESCAPE REALITY OF SOUTH AFRICA AND SUGGESTING AN EVENTUAL FEDERATION OR UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA AND LESOTHO. MOKHEHLE HAS CONFIRMED THAT HE GAVE INTERVIEW TO SABC REPORTER WHICH HE INSISTED HE TAPED SO HE COULD NOT BE MISQUOTED, BUT STRESSED THAT HE WAS SPEAKING OF DISTANT FUTURE WHEN ONLY STABLE EXISTENCE WAS ONE IN WHICH RSA AND LESOTHO COULD COME TOGETHER IN FEDERATION OR UNION.

COMMENT: BCP AND MOKHEHLE IN PARTICULAR HAVE TRADITIONALLY ADHERED TO TOUGH ANTI- SOUTH AFRICAN LINE. BUT BNP HAS ADOPTED EQUALLY STRONG ANTI- RSA POSE IN LAST 20 MONTHS AND ISSUE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELATIONS WITH RSA HAS BECOME PARTICULAR FOOTBALL. USE OF  
LESOTHO/ RSA RELATIONS ISSUE PARTICULARLY TEMPTING IN VIEW OF  
CONSIDERABLE BODY OF CONSERVATIVE OPINION IN LESOTHO WHICH  
FIRMLY BELIEVES AND ARGUES THAT GOL HARD- LINE POLICY TOWARDS  
RSA IS INCORRECT OR HAS AT LEAST BEEN PUSHED TOO FAR AND THAT  
LESOTHO SHOULD WORK TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH RSA. ANTHONY  
MANYELI, FORMER HARD- LINE BNP MINISTER, IS ONE OF LEADING  
EXPONENTS OF THIS VIEW. THUS, WHILE GOL OFFICIALS MAKING CLEAR  
THERE NO INTENTION ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH RSA,  
AFTER BCP DEPUTY LEADER AND LEADER OF BCP ELEMENT IN INTERIM  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, G. P. RAMOREBOLI, AND UDP LEADER CHARLES  
MOFELI, BOTH CALLED FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH RSA IN INTERIM  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON MAY 7 ( REFTEL), AND PM JONATHAN FELT COM-  
PELLED TO SAY AT PITSO SEVERAL WEEKS LATER THAT ISSUE OF ALLEGED  
DETERIORATING RELATIONS WITH RSA HAD BEEN EXAGGERATED FOR PRO-  
PAGANDA PURPOSES AND THAT IT NOT TRUE GOOD RELATIONS DID NOT  
EXIST BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. IN THIS CONTEXT MOKHEHLE' S STATE-  
MENT APPEARS DESIGNED PREVENT HIS BEING ISOLATED IN WAKE OF  
SPLIT IN HIS PARTY AND PROVIDE HIM WITH ISSUE WHICH HE BADLY  
NEEDS ON WHICH TO ATTACK BNP POLICY.  
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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PFOR  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 JUN 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973MASERU00623  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 87  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 MASERU 505  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** elyme  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <30-Jan-2002 by elyme>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980206  
**Subject:** BCP LEADER ON RELATIONS BETWEEN LESOTHO AND SOUTH AFRICA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, LT, SF  
**To:** AF  
CAPE TOWN  
GABORONE  
LONDON  
MBABANE  
PRETORIA  
SECSTATE WASHDC

**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005